

22859
Customer Number

Patent
Case No.: 539.3113.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Charmaine K. Harris
Application No.: 10/691,859 Group Art Unit: 3762
Filed: October 23, 2003 Examiner: Alter, Alyssa Margo
Title: MEDICAL LEAD AND METHOD

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STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

The following recordation of the substance of the interview is believed to be complete and proper, in accordance with MPEP 713.04.

Interview Participants: (1) Alyssa M. Alter; and (2) Applicant's representative, Elisabeth Lacy Belden (Patent Agent).

Applicant is grateful to Examiner Alter for conducting a telephone interview with Ms. Belden, on January 12, 2009. Ms. Belden requested the telephone interview in order to review, with Examiner Alter, portions of Applicant's response to the final office action (mailed November 12, 2008), which response was filed on January 5, 2009. In the telephone interview, Ms. Belden pointed out some of the common limitations of pending claims 1 and 13, with particular reference to Figure 6 of the present application, and Ms. Belden reiterated portions of Applicant's arguments (documented in the filed response to the final office action) to distinguish these limitations from the disclosure of Putz. Ms. Belden also reviewed, with Examiner Alter, Applicant's intended construction of claims 1 and 13, which is presented in the response to the final action, beginning at the bottom of page 10 and extending to page 11 thereof. Ms. Belden and Examiner Alter agreed that a modification to the language of claims 1 and 16 would help to clarify the intended scope of the claims, and Ms. Belden suggested the following modifications:

1. (Suggested modification) A medical lead for electrical stimulation or sensing, the medical lead comprising a generally flat paddle on a distal end of a body of the lead, the paddle defining an imaginary longitudinal center line, the paddle comprising:
 - first and second major surfaces;
 - an electrode array comprising at least one electrode located on the longitudinal center line defined by the paddle, the at least one electrode being exposed through the first major surface and insulated by the second major surface, thereby having directional electrical field properties relative to the first and second major surfaces of the paddle; and
 - an orientation marker being displaced from the longitudinal center line, on one side thereof, and from each of the at least one electrode of the electrode array, the orientation marker including radio-opaque material such that, when the orientation marker is viewed under fluoroscopy, as being on a particular side of the longitudinal center line, the direction in which the first major surface of the paddle faces can be determined.

13. (Suggested modification) A medical lead for electrical stimulation or sensing, the medical lead comprising:
 - a lead body having proximal and distal ends, and at least one electrical conductor extending between the proximal and distal ends;
 - a connector on the proximal end of the lead body in electrical communication with the electrical conductor; and
 - a generally flat paddle on the distal end of the lead body, the paddle defining an imaginary longitudinal center line, the paddle comprising:
 - proximal and distal ends, first and second major surfaces, and a length extending between the proximal and distal ends;
 - an electrode array being located on the longitudinal center line and displaced along the length of the paddle, toward the distal end of the paddle, and comprising at

least one electrode in electrical communication with the electrical conductor, the at least one electrode being exposed through the first major surface of the paddle and insulated by the second major surface of the paddle, thereby having directional electrical field properties relative to the first and second major surfaces; and
an orientation marker being displaced from the longitudinal center line, on one side thereof, and from each of the at least one electrode of the electrode array, the orientation marker including radio-opaque material such that, when the orientation marker is viewed under fluoroscopy, as being on a particular side of the longitudinal center line, the direction in which the first major surface of the paddle faces can be determined.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner Alter carefully review, and favorably consider, the entirety of the arguments presented in the response to the final office action, in conjunction with the modifications suggested above. Furthermore, if Examiner Alter believes that this statement contains any inaccuracies or is otherwise not complete and proper, Applicant requests that Examiner Alter notify the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2009

/Elisabeth Lacy Belden/
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